

FRINTON AND WALTON
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL



ANNUAL REPORT

of

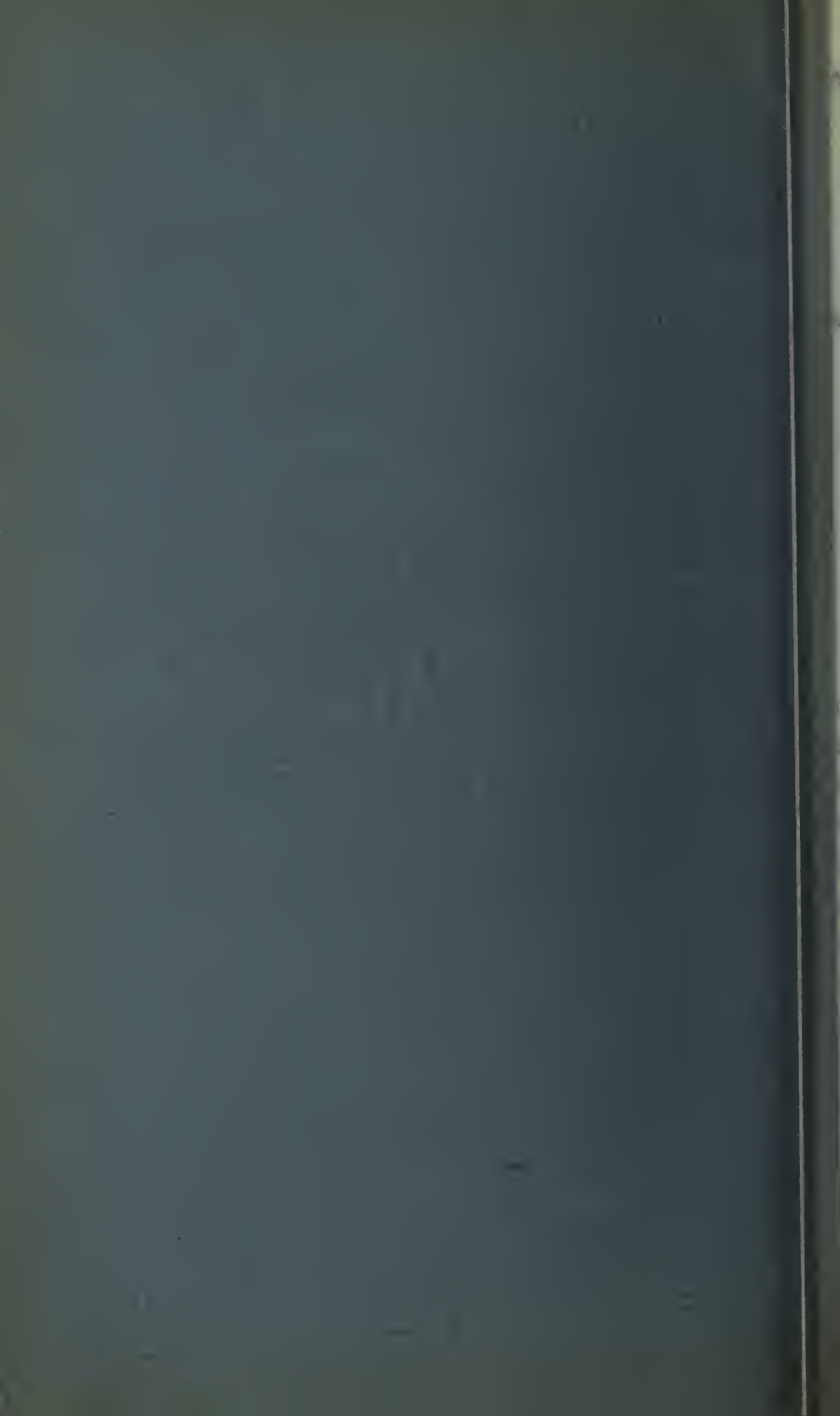
The Medical Officer of Health

for 1948



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1949



Frinton and Walton Urban District Council.

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health
for 1948.

Chairman of the Council : H. A. GIRT, J.P.

Vice-Chairman of the Council : Capt. W. J. OXLEY.

Public Health Committee.

Mr. H. M. GIRLING (Chairman)

Miss M. S. McJANNET (Vice-Chairman)

Mr. J. H. CAESAR-GORDON

Mrs. C. A. COOPER, C.C.

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Mr. H. A. GIRT, J. P.

Mr. W. E. GRANT

Mr. L. R. LANSDOWNE

Captain W. J. OXLEY

Mr. A. WALKER

August, 1948.

**To the Chairman and Members of the Frinton and
Walton Urban District Council.**

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have again the honour to present the Annual Report upon the Health of the District during 1948.

The Vital statistics are based upon the Registrar General's estimated population of 7,943. As in all residential areas the age distribution in Frinton and Walton District is affected by the large proportion of elderly persons and consequently the death and birth rates of Frinton and Walton are not comparable with the National figures.

The outstanding features in this years report are:—

The low Infantile death rate of 9.17, the absence of maternal deaths and also the absence of any notifications of puerperal fever or pyrexia.

Infectious disease shows a low incident rate, the only disease above the national figures is that of acute poliomyelitis or infantile paralysis.

Housing is still a most urgent matter, but definite progress is being made.

The National Health Service Act has now been in operation since July and it may be of interest to review the effects upon local public health administration.

The Act has made considerable modifications in the duties of the Local Authorities. Responsibilities which were previously those of the Urban District have now been transferred, either to the County Council as the Local Health Authority or to other newly constituted bodies.

Under the Act the Urban District has lost the control and responsibility in connection with:—

- (a) Control of isolation and of hospitalisation of infectious disease. (Transferred to Hospital Board)
- (b) Prophylactic immunisation against diphtheria. (County Council)
- (c) Home and Domestic Helps. (County Council)

Again the following duties previously carried out by the County Council are now transferred to the newly constituted North East Metropolitan Regional Hospital board.

- (a) Provision of and control of all hospitals whether for infectious disease, tuberculosis, maternity, mental or general cases which include the old public assistance hospitals.
- (b) The Whole of the Tuberculosis Service.
- (c) Venereal Disease Service.

The Urban District Council still retain wholly or in part the control of the Public Health matters.

General Public Health.

Abatement of Nuisances

Provision of Sewerage and Sewage Disposal.

Scavenging.

Prevention of River Pollution.

Cemeteries.

Infectious Disease.

Disinfection of houses and contents, and enquires.

Food

Inspection of and if found unfit for food, the seizure of such.

Inspection of premises, where food is prepared, stored or exposed for sale.

Investigation of cases of food poisoning.

Milk

Registration of cowsheds, dairies and milkshops, issuing of dealers licences for T.B. tested, accredited and pasteurised milk.

Water Supply

Provision of an adequate and pure water supply to each home.

Rodent Control

Housing

Duties imposed by the various Housing Acts and Regulations.

The modern tendency is to centralise over a wide area and remove the departure from uniformity which complete local control is liable to give to district administration.

Time will show whether the advantage of centralisation will outweigh the loss due to local knowledge.

This knowledge is most important, for example, in the control of infectious disease where the combination of knowledge of local conditions and circumstances, together with accurate and early information concerning the cases allows the prompt action necessary in cases of serious epidemics. This prompt action is liable to be lost when administrative procedure becomes too cumbersome.

In presenting the report, I wish to thank the Council for their continual support and also to express my thanks for the help and co-operation of various officers of the Council and especially to the Senior Sanitary Inspector and Public Health Staff.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

J. RAMSBOTTOM.

Section A.

Statistics and Social Conditions in the Area.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

The estimated population for 1948 as supplied by the Registrar General, is 7,943.

The number of inhabited houses and rateable value is given below :—
 Number of Inhabited Houses end of 1948, approximately 3,163
 Rateable Value £107,510

Sum represented by a penny rate £410

LIVE BIRTHS	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	63	42	105
Illegitimate	2	2	4
Totals	65	44	109

Birth Rate per 1,000 population 13.72

STILL BIRTHS	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	2	2	4
Illegitimate	—	—	—
Totals	2	2	4

Rate per 1,000 Total Births (live and still ie. 113)..... 35.4

DEATHS	Male	Female	Total
	38	54	92

Death Rate per 1,000 population 11.58

PUERPERAL DEATHS Nil

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	1	—	1
Illegitimate	—	—	—
Total Deaths	1	—	1

Mortality of all infants per 1,000 births 9.17

" " legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate births 9.52

" " illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate births Nil

DEATHS FROM MEASLES, WHOOPING COUGH, AND DIARRHOEA (Under 2 years)

Diarrhoea	Nil.
Measles	Nil.
Whooping Cough	Nil.

DEATHS FROM CANCER, TUBERCULOSIS, & HEART DISEASE.

Disease	Deaths	Rate per 1,000 population.
Cancer	21	2.64
Tuberculosis Pulmonary	2	0.25
Heart Disease	31	3.9

CAUSE AND AGE OF THE INFANT DEATH.

The following table shows the cause and the age at death of the 1 infant registered :-

Disease	Under 1 day	1 day to 1 wk.	1 week to 1 mth.	Total
Cerebral irritation.....			1	1
			1	1

DEATHS AT VARIOUS AGES DURING 1948.

Under 1 Year	1
5 and under 15 years	1
15 and under 25 years	3
25 and under 35 years	1
35 and under 45 years	2
45 and under 55 years	3
55 and under 65 years	15
65 and under 75 years	31
75 and upwards	35
Total	92

One female resident of Walton died in hospital at the age of 100 years.

DISTRIBUTION OF THE DEATHS

	Frinton	Walton	Kirby	Gt. Holland
Total Deaths	29	39	15	8
Infant Deaths	.....	1	.....	.....

TABLE SHOWING THE CAUSES OF DEATH 1948.

	Male	Female	Total
Pulmonary Tuberculosis.....	.....	2	2
Cancer	9	12	21
Diabetes	1	.....	1
Intracranial Vascular Lesions	2	7	9
Heart Disease	15	16	31
Other Diseases Circulatory System	2	7	9
Bronchitis	1	4	5
Ulcer of Stomach of duodenum	1	.....	1
Other Digestive Diseases	1	.....	1
Nephritis	1	1	2
Congenital Deformities, Injuries at Birth, Infantile Diseases	1	.....	1
Road Traffic Accidents	1	1	2
Violent Deaths .....	.....	1	1
All Other Causes	3	3	6
Totals	38	54	92

COMPARATIVE STATISTICS

Comparative Statistics Frinton and Walton Urban District and England and Wales as a whole, 1948 :-

Rates per 1,000 population				
				England & Wales
Frinton & Walton U.D.C.				
BIRTHS				
Live Births .....	.....	.....	13.72	17.9
Still Births .....	.....	.....	0.5	0.42
DEATHS				
All Causes .....	.....	.....	11.58	10.8
Tuberculosis .....	.....	.....	0.25	0.51
NOTIFICATIONS (Corrected)				
Scarlet Fever .....	.....	.....	0.38	1.73
Whooping Cough .....	.....	.....	1.64	3.42
Diphtheria .....	.....	.....	0.00	0.08
Measles .....	.....	.....	6.55	9.34
Acute Poliomyelitis .....	.....	.....	0.12	0.04

Rates per 1,000 Live Births			
DEATHS			
All causes under 1 year of age .....	.....	9.17	34
Enteritis and Diarrhoea under 2 years of age .....	.....	0.00	3.3

Rates per 1,000 Total (Live and Still) Births

NOIFICATIONS (Corrected)		
Puerperal fever and pyrexia	0.00	6.89

Maternal Mortality in England and Wales.

	Frinton & Walton	Rates per 1,000 Total (Live and Still) Births	Rates per million women aged 15-44
140 Abortion with Sepsis	Nil	0.11	9
141 Abortion without Sepsis	Nil	0.05	4
147 Puerperal infections	Nil	0.13	
142-146, 148-150 other maternal causes	Nil	0.73	

Section B.

General Provisions of Health Services.

1. PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

Medical Officer of Health (Temp) J. Rainsbottom, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
Also M.O.H. Brightlingsea U.D.C., Clacton U.D.C. (Temp), Tendring R.D.C.
and Assistant County Medical Officer, Essex County Council.

Sanitary Inspector : Mr. J. Gray, A.R.S.I., M.S.I.A., Meat and Foods
Cert.

Clerk : Miss D. Crane.

2. LABORATORY FACILITIES.

Bacteriological work is now carried out at the Pathological Laboratory,
Essex County Hospital, Colchester

Water and Ice Cream Samples are examined at the Counties Public
Health Laboratories, 66 Victoria Street, London, S.W.1.

Examinations of Milk are dealt with at the Essex Institute of
Agriculture, Writtle, Nr. Chelmsford.

NURSING IN THE HOME

There are two District Nurse Midwives employed by the Essex County
Council as Local Health Authority working in the District.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES

The Essex County Council as Local Health Authority assumes direct
responsibility for operational control of ambulance services within the
Administrative County.

CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES.

The Essex County Council is both the M. & C.W. and the Education
Authority for this area.

There are two Child Welfare Clinics held in the area :—

1. The Congregational Church Hall,
Station St., Walton 1st Wednesday in each month
2. The Women's Institute,
Halstead Rd., Kirby Cross 4th Friday in each month

Minor Ailments. School Children can attend the above clinics.

Immunisation Clinics. Immunisation against Diphtheria is carried out
at each of the above.

NURSING HOMES

There are four Nursing Homes in the District registered by the County
Council :—

ST. NINIANS, Queen's Road, Frinton-on-Sea, with accommodation for
four chronic, aged or infirm patients.

THE YEW TREES, Kirby-le-Soken, with accommodation for six
similar cases.

LAMMERMOOR NURSING HOME, The Esplanade, for 25 patients.

WOODBERRY HOUSE, Fourth Avenue, Frinton-on Sea, with accom-
modation for six patients.

MIDWIVES

There are two D.N.M. Midwives and one private Midwife resident in the
area.

Section C.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area, including the Report of the Sanitary Inspector

WATER SUPPLY. As for 1947.

During the year, two samples of water from the mains were examined by the Counties Public Health Laboratories, the reports being satisfactory.

Revised figures of the number of dwelling-houses supplied by public water main are given below—

	Houses	Population
A. Direct to houses	2630	8000
B. Standpipes	230	700

The district at the present time has a satisfactory supply of wholesome water. A difficulty which may arise in the near future is due to the narrow limit of the reserve. The exceptionally low rainfall over the Tendring Peninsula, with the absence of streams or lakes makes deep well water the only source of public supply.

Should coastal development occur the extra demand for water could quite easily put a strain on the present wells beyond their capacity to bear.

It is advisable to retain any supplementary supplies of water such as that in Lower Kirby and also to encourage as far as possible the conservation of rainwater for additional domestic uses.

RIVERS AND STREAMS POLLUTION.

No action was necessary during the year.

SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE.

(a) SEWERAGE. As for 1947.

(b) DRAINAGE. As for 1947. Fifteen houses were connected to the main sewer as a result of informal action taken by the Sanitary Inspector, a number of drainage systems were re-laid and many drainage improvements effected. No extensions were made during the year.

(c) CLOSET ACCOMMODATION

Pail Closets in the Urban District, approx.	340
Chemical Closets " " "	32
Cesspools " " " " "	89
Wells " " " " "	24
Houses having Cesspools and Wells "	5

HOUSE REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL.

The present arrangements are satisfactory.

ERADICATION OF BED-BUGS.

No. of Infested Houses	Council Houses	...	Nil
	Other Houses	...	3
No. of Houses Disinfested	Council Houses	...	Nil
	Other Houses	...	3

METHODS EMPLOYED IN DISINFESTATION.

As for 1947.

MORTUARY.

As for 1947.

SCHOOLS.

The sanitary condition of all Schools in the area is satisfactory.

BYELAWS.

As for 1947.

Report of Sanitary Inspector, 1948.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL.

As for 1947. The amount of refuse collected during the year amounted to approximately 15000 cubic yards. A special trade refuse collection service was re-introduced, and operated very satisfactorily.

SALVAGE.
The weight and value of all salvage collected and sold during the year under review is given below :-

	T.	C.	Q.	lbs	£.	s.	d.
Waste paper of all categories	67	18	1	15	500	10	7
Metals	5	7	2	18	23	11	6
Rags, Woollens	1	14	0	9	40	7	9
Bottles, Jars	0	3	1	0	1	14	6
Bones		11	3	0	3	7	8
String		2	3	0		11	0
Year 1948	75	17	3	14	570	3	0
Year 1947	66	12	3	3	506	8	6

STREET SCAVENGING.

The roads are regularly scavenged by street sweepers supplied with orderly trucks, the more important roads being swept daily. During the year the Council were delegated the cleansing of classified roads within the Urban District, involving a further 12.32 miles of roads and including the main shopping centres at Frinton and Walton. A snow plough was purchased for use with a tractor when required.

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES.

The eleven public conveniences in the District are in satisfactory condition but consideration will shortly have to be given to the provision of new roofs to the Connaught Avenue Conveniences, Frinton-on-Sea and the Albion Conveniences, Walton-on-Naze, existing roof lights being in defective and leaking condition. Cleansing and maintenance arrangements are satisfactory.

INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT.

Nature of Visits of Inspections.	No. of Inspections.
Under Housing Acts	261
Under Public Health Act	312
Premises re-inspected (including housing) ...	101
Works in progress (including housing) ...	243
Other Visits	140
Total Inspections	1057

Included in the above are the following classified visits :-

Bakehouses	...	...	...	39
Ice-Cream Premises	...	...	...	83
Food Shops	...	...	...	125
Hotel Kitchens	...	...	...	6
Fried Fish Shops	...	...	...	29
Dairies, Cowsheds and Milk Shops	...	...	...	37
Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	3
Stables	...	...	...	6
Public Conveniences	...	...	...	129
Factories and Workplaces...	...	...	...	39
Licensed Premises	...	...	...	4
Camping Grounds	...	...	...	114
Schools	...	...	...	4
Cinemas	...	...	...	3
Hairdressing Establishments	...	...	...	3
Massage Establishments	...	...	...	2
Under Petroleum Regulations	...	...	...	19
Water Supply	...	...	...	14
Overcrowding of Persons...	...	...	...	15
Infectious Diseases	...	...	...	86
Tenancy Applications	...	...	...	101
Mortuary	...	...	...	6
House Refuse...	...	...	...	49
Trade Refuse	...	...	...	41
Salvage	...	...	...	65
Total Classified Inspections				<u>1022</u>

NOTICES SERVED

Informal Notices, including letters and verbal instructions	...	...	429
Statutory Notices under Public Health Act	...	...	14
Statutory Notices under Housing Acts	...	...	2

DETAILS OF SANITARY IMPROVEMENTS EFFECTED DURING THE YEAR

HOUSING REPAIRS

External brickwork repaired	...	...	11
Walls rendered in cement	...	...	15
Damp walls treated with solution	...	...	4
Damp-proof courses provided	...	...	3
Basement rooms damp proofed	...	...	2
Defective walls rebuilt	...	...	5
Dangerous chimney rebuilt	...	...	1
Chimney and flue repairs	...	...	7
Roofs, main, repaired	...	...	17
Roofs, out-buildings, repaired	...	...	4
" " renewed	...	...	5
Gutters and spouting renewed	...	...	9
" " " repaired	...	...	7
" " " provided	...	...	3
Water butts renewed or repaired	...	...	3
Floors renewed	...	...	23
" repaired	...	...	12
" cement, provided	...	...	6
" tiled, provided	...	...	2

Wallplaster repaired or renewed	...	...	15
Ceilings renewed	...	...	7
" repaired	...	...	14
Doors repaired or renewed	...	...	11
Staircases repaired	...	...	5
Staircases, handrails, provided	...	...	1
Windows repaired or renewed	...	...	12
Windows, additional, provided	...	...	7
Firegrates repaired or renewed	...	...	10
Cooking ranges repaired	...	...	4
" " renewed	...	...	5
Yards paved in cement concrete	...	...	9
" drained...	...	...	2
DRAINAGE ETC.			
Houses connected with main sewer	...	...	15
Drainage systems relaid	...	...	9
" " provided	...	...	12
" " repaired...	...	...	16
" " cleansed...	...	...	21
" " tested	...	...	17
Inspection chambers, additional, provided	...	...	8
Cesspools repaired	...	...	5
" cleansed	...	...	7
" pumps, provided ..	...	...	3
" abolished	...	...	1
Pail-closets abolished	...	...	14
Grease traps provided	...	...	1
Surface water drainage improved	...	...	2
Gully surrounds provided or rebuilt	...	...	9
Kitchen sinks renewed	...	...	16
" " provided	...	...	7
W.C. accommodation rebuilt	...	...	16
" " repaired	...	...	11
" " cleansed	...	...	9
" " decorated	...	...	9
" " lighting and vent. improved	...	...	5
W.C pans, new, provided	...	...	19
W.C. flushing cisterns, new, provided	...	...	16
W.C. " " repaired	...	...	15
WATER SUPPLY.			
Internal water supply (main) provided	...	...	10
Service pipes renewed	...	...	7
" " repaired	...	...	9
Storage tanks renewed	...	...	2
" " cleansed	...	...	3
" " covers provided	...	...	3
MISCELLANEOUS.			
Rooms cleansed	...	...	6
" disinfested	...	...	3
Rubbish removed	...	...	9
Insect nuisances abated	...	...	7
Animal nuisances abated	...	...	4
Ditches cleansed	...	...	3
Stable cleansed and lime-washed	...	...	1
Dilapidated out-buildings demolished	...	...	4
Sanitary dustbins provided	...	...	78

FACTORIES ACT, 1937 AND 1948.

The 99 Factories on the Register at the end of the year under review received 39 inspections under the provisions of the Factories Act, 1937. All sanitary defects found were brought to the attention of occupiers, and remedied without delay.

INSPECTION

Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health, including inspections made by the Sanitary Inspector.

Premises.	No. on Register.	Inspections.	Number of Written and Verbal Notices.
Factories without mechanical power	62	23	19
Factories with mechanical power	37	16	9
Totals	99	39	28

DEFECTS.

Particulars.	Found.	Remedied	Referred by H.M. Inspector.
Want of cleanliness	3	3	—
Defective drainage of floors	4	4	—
Sanitary Conveniences :			
Insufficient	3	3	—
Unsuitable or defective	7	7	2
Other Offences	14	14	1
Totals	31	31	3

SHOPS ACTS.

Seventy-seven visits of inspection were made to shop premises under the provisions of the Shop Act, 1934 in the matters of sufficiency of sanitary accommodation, washing facilities, temperature, lighting and ventilation.

Main improvements carried out following informal action are given below :-

Sanitary accommodation for both sexes, new, provided	...	2
Sanitary accommodation improved	... ..	5
Sanitary accommodation repaired	... ..	7
Sanitary accommodation cleansed and decorated	... ..	7
Additional lighting and ventilation provided	... ..	2
Windows repaired	... ..	8
Windows, made to open...	... ..	2
Washing accommodation for both sexes, new, provided	... ..	2
New wash-hand basins provided	... ..	4
Supply of hot water provided	... ..	4

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

1. MILK SUPPLY.

There are 8 registered cowkeepers in the Urban District, and 15 wholesale and retail purveyors of milk. Periodical inspections were made of cow-sheds, milkshops and dairies and in general the premises were found to be in a clean

and satisfactory condition and to comply with the provisions of the Milk and Dairies Order, 1926. As a result of informal action a number of improvements to premises were carried out. Close liaison with the Licensing Authorities is maintained in the matters relating to the production of graded milk within the Urban District with particular reference to the modernization of existing farm buildings to qualify for licence.

Graded milk is produced under licence at six dairy farms in the district, viz Tuberculin Tested Milk—2; Accredited—4. A new milking parlour and accessory buildings is in course of construction at Great Holland, and is intended for the production of T.T. Milk. Work is also in progress in bringing to the standard required for the production of T.T. Milk a set of farm buildings which have been disused for some time. Both premises should be operating in 1949.

There were three licensed milk bottling establishments on the Register at the end of the year, and licences to sell graded milk in the area were issued to 13 dealers.

Milk Samples Samples of milk for examination are sent to the Essex Institute of Agriculture, Writtle, Near Chelmsford under the Bacteriological Service of the Essex County Council. Satisfactory reports were received on eight samples sent for bacteriological examination during the year under review.

2. MEAT INSPECTION. As for 1947.

3. FOODSHOPS. Frequent inspections were made of all shops, stores and vehicles where food is prepared or stored for sale. A number of improvements were carried out as a result of informal action, including the complete internal renovation and decoration of eleven premises. The majority of shopkeepers were found to be quite willing to co-operate in all matters relating to hygiene in food premises, but it is unfortunate that a few require frequent supervision and will carry out necessary works only when requested to do so.

4. ICE CREAM. There were four manufacturers and twenty-six vendors of ice-cream on the Register at the end of the year. The four manufacturing establishments comply with the provisions of Ice Cream (Heat Treatment, Etc.) Regulations 1947 and the premises were found when ever inspected to be in a clean condition. Vendors premises and equipment received numerous visits of inspection and no serious faults were found. Ten samples of ice-cream sold in the area were for bacteriological examination, four of which were placed in Grade I of the Ministry of Health's Provisional Grading five in Grade II and one in Grade III.

5. BAKE-HOUSES. There are ten bake-houses in use in the District. They have been visited regularly during the year and found to be kept in a satisfactory condition

6. CHEMICAL AND BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF FOOD AND WATER.

The examination of water, ice-cream shell-fish and other foods is carried out at the Public Health Laboratories, 66, Victoria Street, London, S.W. 1 under the Bacteriological Laboratory Service of the Essex County Council. Samples of milk for examination are sent to the Essex Institute of Agriculture, Writtle, Near Chelmsford.

7. FOODSTUFFS CONDEMNED DURING 1948.

Tinned Meats.

Luncheon Meat	17 tins	23 lbs.
Veal loaf	3 "	5 "
Meat roll	2 "	6 "
Stewed steak	21 "	21 "
Minced meat	1 "	1½ "
Corned beef	2 "	5 "
Meat hash	2 "	2 "
Rabbit	3 "	3 "
Bacon	2 "	2 "
Sausages	5 "	5 "

Tinned Fish.

Fish paste	16 "	8 "
Mussels	7 "	7 "
Kippers	2 "	2 "
Salmon	4 "	5 "
Pilchards	3 "	4 "
Herring spread	13 "	3 "
Sardines	2 "	1 "
Oysters	1 "	½ "

Tinned Milk.

Evaporated milk	61 "	61 "
Condensed milk	10 "	14 "

Other Tinned Foods.

Peas	11 "	44 "
Tomatoes	4 "	5 "
Baked beans	11 "	15 "
Carrots	2 "	4 "
Spinach	1 "	2 "
Plums	4 "	4 "
Peaches	3 "	9 "
Pineapple	2 "	4 "
Cherries	10 "	13 "
Fruit Cocktail	4 "	22 "
Pears	2 "	4 "
Grapefruit	44 "	49 "
Marmalade	19 "	48 "
Spaghetti	2 "	1 "
Soups	3 "	4 "

Other Foods.

Fresh meat		5 "
Brawn	48 pkgs.	48 "
Boiling fowls	48 in number	
Boiling ducks	52 do.	
Geese	6 do.	
Roasting chickens	24 do	
Cheese	2 boxes	2 "
Biscuits	2 pkts	2 "
Semolina	19 "	19 "
Shredded Wheat	4 "	3 "
Potatoes		36 "
Dried Egg	2 cartons	1 "
Sweets		24 "
Chocolate		11 "
Oranges	30 dozen	
Eggs	18 "	
Ryvita bread	6 pkts.	8 "
Jellies	1 pkt	1 "
	16	

INFECTIOUS DISEASES AND DISINFECTION.

During the year, eighty six visits of inspection were made in connection with infectious disease control, and reports and information required sent to the Medical officer of Health as necessary.

DISINFECTION. Terminal disinfection of twenty-four rooms and contents was carried out, and four School wards were fumigated following an outbreak of Measles. With the consent of owners, a number of articles and a quantity of old bedding were removed to the Refuse Disposal Site and destroyed by burning.

BEDDING FUMIGATED. Five lots of bedding, clothing etc. were steam disinfected at Clacton Isolation Hospital.

CAMPING GROUNDS.

There are eight camping grounds in Walton-on-Naze, seven of which are subject to the Council's Byelaws with respect to Camping Grounds and Moveable Dwellings. The remaining site comprises the Army Cadet Force Camp situated at the Naze End of Walton, which provides accommodation during the summer months for batches of about 600 Officers and Cadets undergoing training. There is accommodation at all Camps for approximately 4,500 campers.

All of the Camping Grounds are provided with sanitary and washing blocks, main drainage and main water supplies and in general they are well managed although the larger sites have been found to require more supervision by the occupiers during the height of the season.

Refuse collection is carried out by the Council at the expense of occupiers, and the arrangements so far have been satisfactory. Holiday camping appears to be on the increase however and the amount of refuse the council is called upon to remove is fast becoming too formidable to handle with existing staff and vehicles, and the whole position will have to be reviewed in the near future.

Frequent inspections of Camping Grounds were made by the Sanitary Inspector during the year, and any matters calling for attention brought to the notice of occupiers. Various improvements to sanitary accommodation, drainage, water supply and refuse storage arrangements were carried out. In addition, occupiers agreed to suggestions put forward by the Council for spacing caravans on sites to avoid congestion and overcrowding, and a marked improvement resulted.

RODENT CONTROL.

The Council's rodent control organisation continued to function satisfactorily during the year. Complaints received are investigated and wherever necessary treatment is carried out by the Council at the expense of occupiers of premises. A considerable number of private houses and some business premises were treated with good results. Council property is surveyed and treated regularly, particular attention being given to rodent destruction at the Refuse Disposal Site, Sewage Works, Sewers and Cliffs.

PORT SANITATION.

No action was required under the Port Sanitary Regulations.

MOSQUITO DESTRUCTION.

During the breeding season, marshes and other areas of stagnant water are sprayed with "Larvicide" to reduce the mosquito nuisance.

SUNSHINE AND RAINFALL RECORDS.

The total sunshine for the year was **1718** hours, with a maximum of **14.2** hours on June 7th. Although the number of days when the sun shone was more than the previous year, the total sunshine was some 60 hours less. During the summer months of June to September it averaged only 6 hours per day, an hour less than for the months of April and May and the August total did not exceed that for the month of March.

Rainfall totalled **19.47** inches during the year, falling on **187** days, the greatest fall being **0.82** inches on September 12th.

The early and late months of the year were relatively mild and no more than **12** degrees of frost were experienced, on 20th February. On the other hand, the summer months reflected the lack of sunshine, the maximum temperature being **78** degrees on 26th June. It was remarkable that there was only a variation of **11** degrees (**67°** to **78°**) in the maximum temperatures recorded during each of the months March to November.

Section D.

Housing.

During 1948, ten houses were completed by private enterprise, four war-damaged houses were rebuilt and eight houses were converted into seventeen flats.

It was possible to commence the erection of twenty-eight Council houses on sites at Frinton-on-Sea, Walton-on-Naze, Lower Kirby and Great Holland, and four of the Walton-on-Naze houses were completed and occupied by the end of the year. Sketch proposals had also been prepared, and approved by the Council, for building seventy Council houses on the site known as Bemerton Estate at Kirby Cross. Detailed plans of the lay-out and houses are in course of preparation.

Housing complaints have been dealt with as they have arisen, and a total of **224** houses were inspected in detail by the Sanitary Inspector under the provisions of the Public Health and Housing Acts. A considerable amount of repair and improvement work was carried out as a result of informal and formal action, and in consequence some **84** houses were rendered fit for habitation in all respects. A number of cottages in Walton-on-Naze and the Villages have been listed for demolition action as soon as the general housing position permits. No demolition orders were made during the year.

A very considerable amount of repair of war damage, and military and other dilapidations were carried out during the year and nearly 400 licences totalling £94,000 were issued in respect of work to housing accommodation. Nearly three-quarters of this total was in respect of new houses, rebuilding war-damaged houses, conversions and unoccupied property.

The number of houses requisitioned for inadequately housed persons totalled 59, being a decrease of 2 on the previous year. Six inadequately housed families were re-housed during 1948. The shortage of housing accommodation remains acute and at the end of the year there were a total of 184 applicants on the waiting list for accommodation, including 110 families without separate homes and 74 families in need of better accommodation. Eleven agricultural workers are included in these figures. In November 1948, the Council reviewed their method of selecting applicants for accommodation, and subsequently a "points" system was worked out and adopted. The system is working satisfactorily, and ensures that available houses are let to applicants in the greatest housing need.

HUTTED CAMP, GREAT HOLLAND.

On the 13th. September, 1948, it was possible for the Council to submit to the Ministry of Health proposals for the minimum adaptations to Hutments to provide for a reasonable standard of accommodation for the occupants. The position at the end of the year was that the Ministry had intimated the necessity for economies in the proposals to be effected and had requested the Council to submit a modified scheme. Throughout the year, the legal position regarding the Camp remained unsatisfactory and at the time of writing the position has still not been clarified.

A total number of eighteen families were in occupation of Hutments on the 31st. December. The Sanitary Inspector visited the camp frequently and arranged as necessary for maintenance to Hutments, sanitation and water supply. Refuse is removed regularly.

When the Council's housing scheme is completed the position in this district should show a very appreciable reduction in the waiting list. However, housing

still remains at the present time the chief menace to public health. Much has been said of the necessity of maintaining our standard of living, the two main pillars of which are food and housing. Since the war the latter standard can be observed deteriorating, in spite, of the new houses that have been built.

Owing to the rents, the council houses ultimately will most probably become the dwellings of the professional class and the higher paid manual worker, whilst the bulk of the population will be obliged to find accommodation in the cheaper dwellings, whose housing standard will fall in a sliding scale to the level of houses fit for demolition only with the weekly rent amounting to a few shillings.

It is amongst these low rented houses that appalling housing conditions exist, and where the greatest expense comparative to the rent is required for reconditioning. Owing to the fact it is not an economic proposition for owners to put these houses in good state of repair, hence they continue to deteriorate until they become uninhabitable. If it were possible to make the cost of repair an investment by raising the rent, many of these semi-derelict houses could be made to rank with council houses as a housing proposition, and in most cases at a much lower rent. It is essential not merely to maintain the number of houses, but by every means available both by building new houses and repairing old ones to increase the number. Since, until the supply of houses considerably exceeds the demand it is not possible to improve the general housing conditions of the district.

Air Raid Precautions and Housing.

With the possibility of aerial warfare of a most intensive type in any future hostilities, it does not appear impracticable to make it obligatory for all new houses to have an effective air raid shelter in the basement, which should give reasonable precautions against area bombardment and even offer feasible protection against atomic rays.

1. INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES DURING THE YEAR 1948	
1 (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	224
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	301
2 Number of dwelling-houses found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	93
2. REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES	
Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	84
3. ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR	
A Proceedings under Section 9 and 10 of the Housing Acts, 1936.	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	2
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :	
(a) By owners	2
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners ...	Nil
B Proceedings under Public Health Acts—	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which legal notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ...	14
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :	
(a) By owners	14
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners ...	Nil
C Proceedings under section II of the Housing Act, 1936 ...	Nil
D Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 ...	Nil
For details of these inspections carried out and notices served, see Sanitary Inspector's Report, Section C.	

Section E.

MILK SUPPLY.

There are 8 producers in the Urban District and 15 wholesalers and retail purveyors. There are 6 of the cowsheds producing Graded milk 2 T.T. and 4 Accredited. For full particulars of the inspection etc., see the Sanitary Inspector's report.

MEAT.

All routine slaughtering is done outside the district. Inspection of the premises where the meat is sold and also the meat itself are carried out regularly — (See Sanitary Inspector's Report, Section C.)

OTHER FOODS.

Much attention has been paid to Foodshops and premises where ice cream is made and sold. For full particulars, see Sanitary Inspector's Report, Section C.

Section F.

Prevalence of and Control Over Infectious Disease.

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED DURING 1948.

			Total Notified	Admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Scarlet Fever	...	...	3	—	—
Pneumonia	...	...	2	—	—
Measles	...	...	52	—	—
Whooping Cough	...	...	13	—	—
Erysipelas	...	...	2	—	—
Poliomyelitis	...	...	1	—	—
Jaundice	...	...	9	—	—
Chicken Pox	...	...	1	—	—
Total			83	—	—

Distribution of the cases notified :-

		Frinton	Walton	Kirby	Gt. Holland
Scarlet Fever	...	2	—	—	1
Pneumonia	...	1	—	—	1
Measles	...	22	14	13	3
Whooping Cough	...	6	1	2	4
Erysipelas	...	1	1	—	—
Poliomyelitis	...	—	1	—	—
Jaundice	...	3	1	4	1
Chicken pox	...	—	1	—	—
Totals		35	19	19	10

The District has been very free from serious infectious disease during the year.

MEASLES.

This disease was very prevalent again, **52** cases were notified as compared with **109** in 1947 and **52** in 1946.

Measles is most infectious, and when an epidemic becomes established it usually persists until all the susceptible children have been infected. After a general immunity of the child population is in this way established, the disease subsides and the particular district is comparatively free until an unprotected child population again collects. The disease has been mild in character, no deaths occurring during the last three years.

WHOOPIING COUGH.

Thirteen cases were notified as against **20** in 1947 and **2** in 1946.

DIPHTHERIA.

The district has again been free from diphtheria. The remarkable fall in the incidence of and the deaths from diphtheria throughout the Country can only be attributed to the immunisation now in vogue.

During 1948, **36** children between one and five years, and **1** between five and fifteen years received the full course of inoculations. **3** children received a secondary or reinforcing injection.

It is instructive to consider the National statistics relating to the prevalence of diphtheria since immunisation was adopted. The low death rate is still more impressive when it is remembered that the great majority of the 150 deaths recorded for 1948 were those of non-immunised children.

Year	Number of Cases	Deaths
* 1931-1940	55,000	2,800
1940	46,281	2,480
1	50,797	2,641
2	41,404	1,827
3	34,662	1,371
4	29,949	934
5	25,246	722
6	18,283	472
7	10,465	244
8	8,034	150

Immunisation was adopted in 1939 and became fairly general from 1940 onwards.

* Average for the previous ten years.

TUBERCULOSIS 1948.

Age Period	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
5-15	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—
15-25	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
25-35	—	1	2	—	—	—	—	—
35-45	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55-65	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
	2	1	4	—	—	2	—	—
	New Cases 7				Deaths 2			

The following figures give the number of cases on the Register at the end of 1948 :-

Respiratory Male	17	No-Respiratory Male	11
„ Female	15	„ Female	14
	32		25
	—		—
Total 57			

Since the end of the war the fall has not been general throughout the British Isles. In the larger towns of the North of England and of Scotland, the tendency has been for the incidence to show an increase. It is difficult to say what factors contribute to this difference, but it tends to show that although tuberculosis seems to be a dying disease, vigilance on the part of local health authorities must not be relaxed.

